

Are we in the Tribulation? 1 of 4

Hi all,

I get asked this question quite a bit, or I get told by someone by email that we are in the 3rd seal time...wrong.

To the Jewish faith...

The 7 year time Christians call 'the tribulation' is known as 'the time of Jacob's trouble' and many other names in Judaism. When Jesus spoke of it in Matthew 24 the concept of a 7 year time of difficulty in the earth had been well established since Daniel 9:24-27, when he spoke of 70 weeks of years (490 years) determined for Israel. There are about 300 mostly Old Testament references to this 7 year time.

Daniel had been taken captive to Babylon and Jerusalem was destroyed. Jeremiah had prophesied Israel would be in Babylon for 70 years, and Daniel read that (Daniel 9:2) and was praying and repenting for his people. The angel Gabriel came to Daniel (9:21) and told him 490 years in 70 sets of 7 years had been determined for Israel. Gabriel said the countdown of those 490 years would start when the command went out to rebuild Jerusalem, a process that would take 49 years, or 7 prophetic years, to complete.

That is in fact what happened, the decree went out in 457BC and rebuilding took until 408BC. These things are covered in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah in particular. 7 of the 70 years were therefore taken in the rebuilding, and Gabriel told him after that there would be 62 more weeks, or 434 years until Messiah came, but He would be killed, 'but not for Himself' (9:26).

Allowing for differences between our calendar and the Jewish calendar, that takes us to about the year 28AD, when Jesus began His ministry. That used up 69 of the 70 weeks.

This is why everyone was asking if John the Baptist or Jesus was the Messiah - they knew they were in the time frame when Messiah would appear. They were expecting Messiah.

Here was their problem

When Gabriel told Daniel at the end of 70 weeks or 490 years from the time the decree went out to rebuild Jerusalem, he said at the end of that 70th week Messiah would usher in everlasting righteousness. It would be the end of sins and iniquity, and prophecy would be sealed up at that time - the 'complete' had come.

So the people in Jesus' day were expecting a Messiah who would defeat the Romans using supernatural power. That was likely what Judas was thinking when he betrayed Jesus, trying to force Him to use His power to defeat the Romans.

Even before He ascended, in Acts 1:6-7 they asked Jesus: "Now are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" - (Now are you going to kick the Romans out? Now since you are resurrected, are you going to take control of the earth?) Jesus told them it wasn't for them to know the things the Father keeps within Himself.

The mystery kept secret from mankind for ages and generations

That leaves Israel with 69 of the 70 weeks fulfilled, and confusion; What happened? Where is that 70th week? Paul tells us in Ephesians 3:1-10, in part:

"How by revelation He made to me the mystery which was kept secret from the sons of man but is now revealed by His apostles and prophets, that the Gentiles would be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, partakers of Messiah..."

That was the mystery the Father kept secret - He was going to give not just Israel, but the whole world, all Gentile people, the opportunity to experience His salvation through Jesus Christ. Paul said it was not revealed to mankind until Pentecost - it was a secret until then.

Colossians 1:26-27: "Even the mystery which has been hidden from ages and generations, but is now revealed to the saints. That God would make the riches of His glory known to the Gentiles, which is Christ in you (Gentiles), the hope of glory."

Romans 16:25-26: "...the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which had been kept secret since the world began...but now is revealed and made known to ALL nations..."

For example...

This is why Daniel was told there would be 70 weeks and then Messiah would set up His kingdom - but couldn't be told there was a roughly 2,000 year period of time (2 prophetic days) so that Gentiles could receive salvation. They expected Jesus to kick the Romans out, not realizing their rejection of Messiah afforded the Father the opportunity to open His salvation to the rest of the nations.

In Luke 4:18-20 Jesus is in Nazareth and given Isaiah 61, and reads v1 and part of 2: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to preach good news to the meek (teachable). He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to open the prison to those who are bound, (2) to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" ...and Jesus closed it right there and sat down.

Jesus stopped mid-sentence. The full reading of v2 says this: "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God." Jesus stopped after 'the acceptable year of the Lord'. Why?

Because He could not tell anyone there was a 2,000 year gap between the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God (His 2nd coming). When He sat down having read only part of the passage, He said that part had been fulfilled at that time.

This is why when reading Old Testament prophecy the reader must be careful to understand they only knew in part, and knew little of the coming time of the Gentiles. There are only the most vague references to it, like Hosea 6:2: "After 2 days (2,000 years) He will revive us, and the 3rd day (1,000 years) we will live in His sight."

So are we in the Tribulation right now? In other words, are we in that 70th week? No. And next week I'll start explaining why...thanks for reading through this longer than usual first in the series....blessings,

John Fenn

email me at cwowi@aol.com or john@cwowi.org

Are we in the Tribulation? 2 of 4

Hi all,

Last week I shared about Daniel's 70 weeks. The angel Gabriel told Daniel that from the decree to rebuild the city until Messiah comes would be 69 out of 70 prophetic weeks, or 483 years. Daniel was told that Messiah would be killed, 'but not for Himself.' That leaves 1 week or 7 years left. Gabriel told Daniel in 9:26-27 that 70th week will be marked by this event:

"The people of the prince (the man of sin) who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary...in this way...he will confirm a covenant (treaty) that is for 7 years. But in the midst

of that treaty (3 1/2 years) he will cause the sacrifices to stop and the abominations will happen until the fulfillment of everything."

So there remains the 70th week, marked by a 7 year peace treaty made with Israel.

This understanding was confirmed by Jesus in Matthew 24:15-16 when He said:

"When you see the abomination spoken of by Daniel the prophet stand in the holy place - whoever reads this let him therefore understand - then let them in Judea run to the mountains..."

About that 70th week and why we aren't in the Tribulation yet

The apostle John is caught up to heaven in Revelation 4:2 and brought before the Father's throne, which is described in chapter 4. It is the Father on the throne, that is clear. There is a rainbow around the throne before which is a clear flooring. There are cherubs around the throne, and as we see in chapter 5:1, the Father is holding a scroll in His right hand.

Chapter 5 opens with the apostle crying because there was no one the Father considered worthy to open the book and loose the seals. Then he saw a Lamb as if it had been killed, the lion of the tribe of Judah, who is now alive. Verse 7 tells us He is worthy and He comes forward and "took the book out of the right hand of Him who sits on the throne..." So we have the Father in chapter 4 giving the book to Jesus in chapter 5.

Fun Fact: Daniel was shown the same scene. In Daniel 7:9-14 he sees the 'Ancient of Days' (the Father) sitting on His throne, to whom the Son of Man comes in the clouds of heaven to receive a kingdom without end.

The 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls

The most common email about this subject I receive have to do with the seals, usually saying something like; 'We are in the time of the 3rd seal'. Having already answered the core question that we are not yet in that 7 year time of the end, marked by leader(s) in Europe (and perhaps other nations in the Mediterranean region) making a 7 year peace treaty with Israel, lets look at the seals.

The Revelation is an interesting book compiled in a way to give us 3 viewpoints: What is happening on earth, what is happening in heaven, and informational. The 7 seals, trumpets, and bowls are related in numerical order to the other - Seal 1, trumpet 1, and bowl 1 are related. Seal 2, trumpet 2, and bowl 2 are all related, and so on.

The 6th of each is the return of Jesus, the 7th of each is the end of the age/setting up of His kingdom

The 6th seal is opened in 6:12-17 and is the return of Jesus, known as 'the wrath of the lamb', or 'the day of wrath', also 'the day of the Lord' in Jewish understanding (OT). Notice it says the sun is darkened and the moon too, and the stars fall from heaven at His return. In Judaism (OT) the most common term is 'the day of the Lord'.

This is exactly what Jesus said of His return in Matthew 24:29-31: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, the moon won't shine, and the stars will fall from heaven..."

How Jesus described His return here in Matthew 24 is the benchmark by which we measure other references to the sun and moon being darkened. For instance, in Acts 2:17-21 Peter quotes Joel who saw the same thing, explaining that God's Spirit would be poured out on men and women, boys and girls, until the sun was darkened and the moon darkened red at the 'great and terrible day of the Lord'. (Tongues has therefore not ceased and won't until His return, who is the fullness of all things)

So the 6th seal depicts the 'day of the Lord' as it states.

When the 6th trumpet is blown in 9:14-21 and the 6th bowl is poured out in 16:12, the apostle sees a 200,000,000 man army from the 'kings of the east' crossing over a dried up Euphrates river on their way to invading Israel.

Putting this with the war of Ezekiel 38-39 in our day, it means when that war happens and Russia, Iran, Turkey and allies are defeated, the only threat to Israel will be China and 'the kings of the east'. That is why some 7 years after the Ezekiel war - the kings of the east travel without risk across the southern part of Russia on their way into northern Israel.

The 7th of each is after Jesus returns as seen in the 7th seal of 8:1, which says there was silence in heaven for about 30 minutes. The 7th trumpet of 10:7 says 'the mystery of God is finished', and in 11:15 also, "Many voices in heaven proclaimed, 'the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our God, and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.'" When the 7th bowl is poured out in 16:7 the Father God cries out: "It is done!"

So now that we have settled the 6th of each is His return, and the 7th of each is the end, let us look closer at seals, trumpets, and bowls 1-5.

And this we will do next week...until then, blessings!

John Fenn

cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com or john@cwowi.org

Are we in the Tribulation? 3 of 4

Hi all,

Having last week established the 6th seal, trumpet, and bowl are the return of Jesus, and the 7th of each are the end of this age, let us now focus on seals, trumpets, and bowls 1-5.

As I said previously, the most common email on this subject that I receive is usually someone telling me we are in the time of seal #3, or the pandemic was seal 6, or asking me something similar.

Seal, trumpet, bowl #1, 2, 3

In Revelation 6:2 the apostle sees the first seal opened; A white horse, and the rider has a bow, a crown, and he goes forth conquering. The observation has been made and widely speculated, that this is a false messiah, a false peace, false righteousness as noted by the white horse. That he has a bow but no arrows are mentioned, yet conquers, suggests his first efforts are diplomatic, conquering by decree and political means, and taking possession, and at least at the first, not so much by military power.

In 6:3-4 he sees the 2nd seal opened: A red horse, red standing for blood. He takes peace from the earth and men begin fighting among themselves. This rider has a large sword, in other words a large military force. We can speculate that when the initial attempts of political gain by the rider of the white horse have gone as far as they can go, he resorts to outright war.

In 6:5-6 he sees the 3rd seal opened: A black horse which means distress, calamity, things turning very bad, and he sees hyperinflation coming to grains. The measure of wheat and 3 measures of barley for a penny, while not touching wine and oil, are cereal grains or bread grains being most affected.

In the Greek 'penny' is denarius

It is a day's wage in the time of the apostle John. The word 'measure' in the first century was a little less than 2 pints dry measure, or a little less than a liter. The prophecy therefore says inflation will become so high it will take a day's wage to buy just about 2 handfuls of wheat. Of course that will mean many will starve, as seen in the next seal:

In 6:7-8 he sees the 4th seal opened: It is a pale horse, which stands for death, and indeed it says one fourth of mankind will die by sword (war), hunger (starvation), death (diseases), and even wild animals (cities break down).

As you can see, one follows the other - war produces economic chaos, disruption of food production and distribution, and disease.

In 6:9-11 the scene switches from earthly events to a scene in heaven where a multitude of people having been martyred, are before the Father's throne crying out for justice. They ask that He take vengeance on those who murdered them - this scene is specifically about martyrs during this time of war and starvation. It isn't the rapture as the text clearly shows they want vengeance for their murders. The Father gives them white robes of righteousness and tells them it isn't over yet on the earth, but be patient.

As we've seen, what follows is the 6th seal which is the return of Jesus - so all these events of the first 5 seals occur in the 7 year time frame called 'the tribulation' by Christians, or 'the time of Jacob's trouble' in Judaism.

Because this 5th seal is a scene in heaven and not on earth, we gain information of what is happening at the same time on earth by looking at the 5th trumpet and bowl. So let's take them in order once again: The 1st seal is a white horse. What is the 1st trumpet and 1st bowl?

Chapter 7 is an informational chapter, about the 144,000 male Jewish evangelists who will preach in Israel during this time. Chapter 8 resumes with the blowing of the trumpets.

In 8:7 the first trumpet is blown and fire, hail, and 'blood' fall to earth, and one third (1/3rd) of trees and grass are burned up. This follows the 1st seal with the white horse, which suggests earth-shattering natural disasters will strike the earth at this time, and a man of sin will take advantage of the situation to conquer and take control.

We get a clearer vision of the events related to the 4 horsemen of seals 1-4 by reading about the trumpets 1-4:

In 8: 8-9 we are told trumpet 2 brings a 'flaming mountain' that falls into the sea and poisons 1/3rd of the sea, and destroys many ships.

In 8:10-11 we see trumpet 3 bring another comet or asteroid, described as a star like a burning lamp falls onto rivers (earth) and poisons 1/3rd of fresh water lakes and rivers.

So now we have in the time of political upheaval and war, a double asteroid/comet hit on earth. One will fall in an ocean, and one will fall on land, with the results of 1/3 of all water, sea, and plants killed or rendered unusable.

What follows is exactly what science predicts if such a things were to happen:

In 8:12 the 4th trumpet says (as a result) 1/3rd of sunlight and moonlight are obscured.

Putting seals 1-4 and trumpets 1-4 together we see a horrible time on earth of natural disaster and political and economic chaos, war, and persecution for believers who will live in that time. As Jesus said in Matthew 24:21, it will be the worst time ever seen on the planet.

Chapter 9:1-12 picks up with the 5th trumpet, and v2 tells us a huge column of smoke/dust will arise, obviously from the previous asteroid hits on land and sea, and block out the sun. The resulting skin diseases will plague mankind for 5 months, and those afflicted will seek death because of the pain, but it won't be lethal - but very painful as they recover.

This is logical

If we take off the 'religious' glasses to see this in modern terms, the seals, trumpets and bowls follow a logical course in terms of political and events in nature. In the midst of political turmoil the earth will receive 2 direct hits from asteroids/comets which will affect the whole earth. What the apostles sees

about 1/3 of sunlight being blocked lines up with scientific theories of 'what if'. Economic crisis follows war and political upheaval, and additionally, the earth will deal with natural disasters of a scale not seen in man's history.

Next week we will pick it up with what Revelation 9:1-11 describes as a column of dust rising to blot the sun, and from that painful skin diseases will hit many people for a period of 5 months - which again is what scientists today say will happen if an asteroid hits the earth. Diseases like anthrax and more which lie dormant in the soil will be thrown into the air and circle the globe by the winds, causing widespread disease for a time.

And on that happy note we will close out this series next week, lol - glad the series following this one is entitled 'Why the rapture is pre-tribulation', lol. Be in peace, until next week, blessings,
John Fenn
cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com or john@cwowi.org

Are we in the TribulationQ 4 of 4

Hi all,

Let's wrap this up by picking up with the double asteroid hit.

We can speculate where these 2 asteroids will hit - but it is just speculation.

Let's take the one that falls into an ocean and poisons the sea. In the apostle's time 'the sea' meant the Mediterranean Sea, which will be poisoned and ships will be destroyed. However, if an asteroid landed in the Mediterranean Sea then the pressure wave and ocean wave it would cause would destroy cities near the coasts of all nations bordering the Sea, so this seems unlikely because these nations must be in place during the end time.

If this first asteroid were to fall in the Pacific it would kill millions in Asia and render the kings of the east devastated, which would hinder the 200 million person army coming to fight Israel at Armageddon, so that doesn't seem to fit - which is why an Atlantic landing seems plausible to me. It would send huge waves to all nations bordering the Atlantic, but have a lesser affect on those in the Mediterranean. A landing in the Atlantic would send tsunamis along the eastern coasts of the Americas, and the west coasts of Africa, the UK and Europe. But who knows?

What about the one that lands on land?

The dust cloud blots out one third of the sunlight. Revelation 9:2 says it will blot out the sunlight but doesn't say to what extent. Previous verses say it will blot out 1/3 of the sunlight (8:12). We know that the 'kings of the east' will come from Asia at Armageddon to invade Israel, so they cannot be affected. It is assumed there is an alignment with anti-Christ's rule in Europe, so Europe wouldn't receive a direct hit.

So if the land hit doesn't happen in Asia, it cannot happen in Europe, Africa, or the Middle East as any hit there would disrupt what we are told will happen before the Lord returns. That makes a hit in North America plausible, hopefully in the far north. The impact and dust cloud would destroy much of North America, and the dust cloud would be carried world wide, but leaving the players of the end of the age intact: Europe, Middle East, Asia. But who knows?

So do you still think we are currently in the Tribulation?

The vials or bowls are found in chapter 16, with the first 5 detailed in verses 1-11: They reinforce what has already been happening: Bowl 1 is v1; sores on unbelievers (who have the mark of the beast), bowl 2 is v2; the sea becoming poisoned, bowl 3 is v3; fresh water is poisoned, bowl 4 in v8-9 is what we would call solar flares causing people to be burned and the earth to be scorched.

This mirrors something the Lord told me in a visitation a few years ago but I only told Barb - He said the magnetic poles are shifting which would in part lead to climate changes and even earthquakes. With the 4th bowl we see the magnetic field of the earth no longer in place protecting the earth from solar flares - evidently the double asteroid hit and natural forces already at work conspire to allow solar flares to break through the atmosphere during that time, and burn people. Think what it would do to our modern electronic world.

That is the world the Lord comes back to.

I started this series talking about Daniel's 70 weeks, with the 70th week being that 7 year period we call the Tribulation, which Judaism calls the Time of Jacob's Trouble leading to the 'Day of the Lord'.

The last 7 years of the age is focused on Israel. Next week I'll start the series 'Why the Rapture comes first', which is actually a Jewish teaching which Paul was raised with. But for now we need to know that 70's week is focused on Israel coming to know their Messiah.

That is why there are 144,000 male evangelists in Israel preaching Jesus. It is why chapter 11 focuses on the '2 witnesses', who are Moses and Elijah. Why them and not Enoch? Because Enosh was before Abraham, before the covenant.

Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the Prophets) have been used by the risen Lord to prove His case to the men on the way to Emmaus, as seen in Luke 24:27: "And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He began explaining to them all the scriptures concerning Himself."

Later that evening, after the 2 from Emmaus had told the disciples the Lord was indeed risen, He appeared to them at that moment. Verse 44 tells us Jesus followed the same pattern: "...these are the words I spoke to you when I was still with you, that all things would be fulfilled; From Moses and the prophets and Psalms concerning me."

The 2 witnesses we are told, have the power to turn water to blood and hit the earth with plagues at will, and the other can shut off rain at will - Moses and Elijah.

The whole point of those last 7 years is for Israel to know Jesus as their Messiah, and for the governments of man therefore, to become subject to the kingdom of God, administered from a believing nation of Israel.

Because the focus then will be on Israel, we are now in the time called 'the time of the Gentiles'. When the Father is done with focusing on the Gentiles, He will remove us from the earth - the salt will be removed so the earth can 'go bad', the man of sin may then be revealed.

And that is what we will talk about next week. until then, blessings,
John Fenn
cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com or john@cwowi.org